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Chapter I
Introduction

1. The present report, submitted to the General Assembly pursuant to Assembly resolution 48/141, highlights some of the main achievements of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) between August 2013 and July 2014 under its management plans for 2012-2013 and 2014-2017.[1]

2. The structure of the report mirrors the thematic priorities contained in the current management plan: strengthening international human rights mechanisms; enhancing equality and countering discrimination; combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law; integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere; widening the democratic space; and early warning and protection of human rights in situations of conflict, violence and insecurity. Widening the democratic space is a new thematic priority for the Office, while the protection of human rights in the context of migration is visibly integrated in all priorities. The thematic priorities cover civil, cultural, economic, political and social rights and are cross-cutting and mutually reinforcing, highlighting the indivisibility and interdependence of all human rights.

3. During the reporting period, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights conducted missions to Sri Lanka, Afghanistan, Poland, Nigeria, the Central African Republic, South Sudan, Georgia and Morocco; the Deputy High Commissioner visited the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Yemen, Togo, the Republic of Moldova, Cambodia and Guatemala; and the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights visited the Central African Republic, South Sudan, Ukraine and Burundi.[2]

4. The period under review confirmed the positive trends featured in previous reports, notably the steadily increasing attention to human rights in the context of peace, security and development by a growing number of Member States and intergovernmental bodies, as well as the determination within the United Nations to anchor human rights throughout the work of the Organization, as illustrated by the Secretary-General's Rights up Front Action Plan, as well as his policies on the human rights due diligence and human rights screening of United Nations personnel.

5. Another growing trend, which partly stems from the advances mentioned, is the continued and growing demand for OHCHR to deliver on multiple fronts: to further strengthen its support to the work of international human rights mechanisms; to provide advice, conduct monitoring and issue timely reports in the context of crises; to support commissions of inquiry; to mainstream human rights across the international system; and to deploy human rights advisers and provide technical cooperation.

6. On the other hand, long-lasting challenges, also described in previous reports and often intertwined, hamper the protection of human rights: prolonged, as well as chronic, violence and conflicts, often with regional or international dimensions; persistent economic and social crises, poverty and deprivation; mounting

[1] Available from www2.ohchr.org/english/ohchrreport2014_2017/omp_web_version/index.html#/home.

[2] By chronological order of the visits of each official.

discrimination, inequality and intolerance on many grounds; and restrictions and attacks on civil society, human rights defenders and whistle-blowers in all regions.

7. As at July 2014, OHCHR was supporting 67 human rights field presences,[3] following the deployment of 10 additional human rights advisers in June and July 2014.[4]

[3] Comprising 13 country/stand-alone offices, 12 regional offices/centres, human rights components in 14 United Nations peace missions and 28 human rights advisers.

[4] The human rights advisers were deployed to the United Nations country teams in Bangladesh, the Dominican Republic, Jamaica, Malawi, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia and the regional teams of the United Nations Development Group for Asia-Pacific and for Latin America and the Caribbean.

Chapter II
Thematic priorities of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

8. The present report describes some of the key activities undertaken by OHCHR at the global level and in the field under the thematic priorities presented in the OHCHR management plan for 2014-2017.

A. Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

9. Globally and in the field, OHCHR continued to enhance the visibility and accessibility of all international human rights mechanisms and support their work, stressing the importance of an integrated approach to the implementation of their recommendations. In May 2014, the Office released interactive world maps[5] to enhance access to information on States' international human rights commitments.

10. OHCHR continued to strengthen its collaboration with the African Union on joint activities with its human rights mechanisms. With support from OHCHR, special procedures of the Human Rights Council and of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights reviewed the Addis Ababa Road Map, a framework for cooperation between the special procedures mechanisms of the two entities, in a meeting held in April 2014. It was agreed that the framework would be maintained and its implementation accelerated. The Addis Ababa Road Map is often cited as a good model for enhancing cooperation between the international and regional human rights systems.

11. In June 2014, OHCHR, in close cooperation with the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, presented to the Human Rights Council a set of basic principles based on international law aimed at providing States with guidance in implementing the right to an effective remedy for victims of trafficking in persons (see A/HRC/26/18). OHCHR encouraged the Council to consider endorsing the basic principles with a view to States incorporating them into their national legal framework.

12. Also in this context, OHCHR supported the Government of Paraguay in developing a research portal, which was launched in June 2014 to strengthen the State's capacity to monitor and report on the implementation of the mechanisms' recommendations. OHCHR also assisted the Government of Georgia in finalizing its national human rights action plan, which incorporates the recommendations of all the mechanisms.

1. Human Rights Council

13. The Human Rights Council remained attentive to deteriorating human rights situations. It appointed the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in the Central African Republic following a special session on the human rights situation in the country held in January 2014 (see resolution S-20/1); extended, for the fourth time, the mandate of the independent international commission of inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic (see resolution 25/23); invited the High Commissioner

[5] Available from http://indicators.ohchr.org.

to report on cooperation and assistance to Ukraine in the field of human rights (see resolution 26/30); and, in July 2014, at a special session on the human rights situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, called for the establishment of a related commission of inquiry (see resolution S-21/1).

14. The Council also continued to examine chronic and grave human rights situations. In March 2014, the Council requested OHCHR to undertake a comprehensive investigation into alleged serious violations and abuses of human rights and related crimes by both parties in Sri Lanka during the period covered by the Lessons Learned and Reconciliation Commission (see resolution 25/1). Also in March 2014, on the basis of the final report of the commission of inquiry to investigate the systematic, widespread and grave human rights violations committed in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (A/HRC/25/63), it requested OHCHR to set up a field-based structure to follow up on the work of the commission (see resolution 25/25). In June 2014, it decided to establish, for a period of one year, a commission of inquiry to investigate all alleged human rights violations in Eritrea (see resolution 26/24).

15. In March 2014, the Council held a high-level panel on human rights mainstreaming, focusing on the promotion and protection of the human rights of migrants. On that occasion, the High Commissioner stressed the need for regular discussions and cooperation on migration and human rights, as underlined in a report on migration, human rights and governance prepared by OHCHR pursuant to a request by the Secretary-General.[6]

16. Following the establishment of a voluntary trust fund to support the participation of the least developed countries and small island developing States in the Human Rights Council, OHCHR increased its outreach activities towards those countries through training, briefings and financial support to enable their participation in the sessions of the Council, including for the universal periodic review.

17. OHCHR continued to enhance the accessibility of the Council's work for persons with disabilities, for instance by providing international sign interpretation and real-time captioning and issuing an accessibility guide to the Council for persons with disabilities.

2. Universal periodic review

18. The second cycle of the universal periodic review continued with a 100 per cent rate of participation during 2013 and 2014 and an average of 120 recommendations issued per country. OHCHR systematically registers all recommendations in the Universal Human Rights Index, a public database in which the recommendations of all the United Nations human rights mechanisms are compiled. As at July 2014, more than 20,000 recommendations had been indexed.

19. In addition to preparing the stakeholders' summaries and the United Nations compilations, OHCHR continued to facilitate States' participation in the universal periodic review through regular briefings and other activities. In February 2014, OHCHR organized meetings in New York for States which do not have

[6] Available from www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/Migration/MigrationHR_improvingHR_Report.pdf.

representation in Geneva, particularly the least developed countries and small island developing States. In April 2014, OHCHR and the International Organization of la Francophonie organized the fourth francophone seminar on the universal periodic review in Chisinau. OHCHR also strengthened its partnership with the Inter-Parliamentary Union in the context of the universal periodic review.

20. OHCHR continued to provide technical assistance and advisory services to many requesting States, including through the Voluntary Fund for Financial and Technical Assistance for the Implementation of the Universal Periodic Review.

21. Good practices are regularly generated for effective follow-up to the recommendations of all international human rights mechanisms and form the basis of Office-wide engagement with States. Dialogue within and support from the broader United Nations system on universal periodic review follow-up has intensified, including in the context of the United Nations Development Group human rights mainstreaming mechanism.

3. Special procedures

22. Special procedures further expanded: as at July 2014, there were 52 mandates and 73 mandate holders, including 38 thematic mandates, following the appointment of the Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons and of the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities, and 14 country mandates, further to the appointment of the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in the Central African Republic.

23. OHCHR continued to facilitate the harmonization of working methods among special procedures, including through the work of the Coordination Committee of Special Procedures.

24. In 2013, OHCHR supported the preparation and conduct of 79 visits by mandate holders to 67 countries and territories. Despite the increase in the number of States having extended standing invitations to special procedures (108 as at 1 January 2014), many of those invitations remain to be honoured in real terms.

25. Furthermore, the rate of States' responses to communications remains low, and not all responses address the substance of the concerns raised. In 2013, special procedures sent 528 communications to 117 States on alleged violations of human rights; only 45 per cent had been responded to by 31 December 2013.

26. The importance of adequate State support for and responsiveness to the special procedures must again be underlined. The growth of special procedures has not been matched by commensurate resources, which affects their ability to ensure adequate follow-up to many aspects of their work, including communications.

4. Treaty bodies

27. In November 2013, the High Commissioner submitted a comprehensive cost assessment paper (see A/68/606) to support the discussions of the intergovernmental process to enhance the effective functioning of the treaty body system. In April 2014, the adoption of General Assembly resolution 68/268 on strengthening and enhancing the effective functioning of the human rights treaty body system marked the conclusion of the process. The resolution is aimed at rationalizing and modernizing

the system and enhancing its accessibility. Moreover, it includes a capacity-building package to assist States parties in fulfilling their human rights commitments.

28. By the end of July 2014, 2,259 ratifications of and accessions to the international human rights treaties and protocols had been registered. With the entry into force in April 2014 of the latest Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Committee on the Rights of the Child became competent to receive individual complaints from children regarding specific violations of their rights under the Convention.

29. OHCHR continued to advocate for the ratification of all international human rights treaties and actively promoted and facilitated State reporting. It conducted, inter alia, training on reporting and follow-up for the Interministerial Delegation on Human Rights of Morocco; reporting under the Convention on Enforced Disappearances for francophone African countries; reporting under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and the Convention against Torture in the Democratic Republic of the Congo; reporting under the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in Guatemala, Montenegro and Paraguay; and ratification and reporting by the State of Palestine.

30. OHCHR continued to assist in the work of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture and the United Nations Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery, which awarded 306 grants to organizations in over 90 countries, providing direct assistance to victims and their relatives, including individuals fleeing the conflicts in the Central African Republic and the Syrian Arab Republic. Despite the critical assistance that it provides to victims, the United Nations Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery suffers from inadequate funding.

B. Enhancing equality and countering discrimination

31. Non-discrimination is a founding principle of international human rights law, and combating discrimination is an overarching goal which guides the work of OHCHR.

1. Racial discrimination

32. OHCHR continued to support the work of the Durban follow-up mechanisms. The twelfth session of the Intergovernmental Working Group on the Effective Implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action was dedicated to elaborating a programme of activities for the International Decade for People of African Descent.

33. In September 2013, OHCHR launched a database on practical means to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance. As at July 2014, this tool already contained information from more than 100 countries on relevant legislation, policies and practices.

34. OHCHR continued to advise Governments on legislation, policies and programmes to eradicate racial discrimination and promote equality. In 2014, it published a practical guide entitled *Developing National Action Plans against Racial Discrimination*. In January 2014, OHCHR organized a workshop on best practices in anti-discrimination laws for the Association of Southeast Asian Nations

in Jakarta. In Mexico, it supported the elaboration of a new national action programme for equality and non-discrimination for 2014-2018. In Mauritania, the Office assisted in the finalization of a national action plan against racial discrimination and supported an inclusive consultation process which resulted in the revision of legislation identified as discriminatory.

35. In the Republic of Moldova, OHCHR continued to foster the implementation of anti-discrimination laws, training judges and prosecutors and supporting the newly created Council on Preventing and Combating Discrimination and Ensuring Equality (about 50 remedy decisions in discrimination cases have been reached by courts and the Council). In Belarus, OHCHR organized a workshop for law enforcement officers on anti-discrimination standards and good practices, with a focus on combating incitement to hatred in cyberspace. In the Plurinational State of Bolivia, OHCHR and the Office of the Ombudsman designed a diploma programme on the prevention of racism and discrimination for the School of Public Administration, which was launched in October 2013.[7]

2. Indigenous and minority issues

36. OHCHR continued to play a leading role in the advancement of the rights of indigenous peoples and minority rights, assisting Governments, civil society actors and rights holders in addressing key concerns, including language rights and respect for the principle of free, prior and informed consent of indigenous peoples.

37. OHCHR organized indigenous and minority fellowship programmes in five languages, bringing together some 50 indigenous and minority rights activists to learn how to claim their rights and use international human rights mechanisms. The Office has been actively involved in preparations for the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, to be held in September 2014, facilitating indigenous peoples' participation in the process. OHCHR also supported the work of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples on access to justice and other key topics and published a compilation of its recommendations to inform legal and policy debates at the country level. Furthermore, OHCHR issued a manual for national human rights institutions on the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

38. Through the Maya Programme, a strategic litigation initiative, OHCHR continued to support indigenous organizations and communities in Guatemala in claiming their rights before courts. For instance, as a result of such assistance, in January 2014 a high-level State commission recognized the territories of four Maya-Q'eqchi' communities of Sierra Las Minas (Department of Izabal) as communal lands and as the inalienable, indivisible, imprescriptible and non-sizeable patrimony of the Maya-Q'eqchi' people. This decision represents an important precedent in the country.[8]

39. In April 2014, under OHCHR leadership, the United Nations network on racial discrimination and protection of minorities developed an action plan to implement the guidance note of the Secretary-General on racial discrimination and protection of minorities and strengthen national capacity through online tools, training on

[7] See also A/HRC/25/19/Add.2.

[8] See also A/HRC/25/19/Add.1.

minority rights and dialogue on follow-up to the recommendations of human rights mechanisms.

40. OHCHR continued to address the human rights challenges faced by Roma in Europe. It organized a series of meetings, including a colloquium held in Madrid in January 2014 to address the persistent segregation of Roma communities and foster exchanges on good practices. In the Republic of Moldova, OHCHR supported Roma school desegregation efforts in five communities.

3. Gender equality and women's rights

41. OHCHR pursued advocacy on issues relating to sexual and reproductive health and rights, including through active engagement with the Commission on the Status of Women and the Commission on Population and Development and an inter-agency statement on forced, coerced and otherwise involuntary sterilization. OHCHR also conducted capacity-building for civil society on such issues, for instance in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and contributed to situational analyses of maternal and child health in Malawi, South Africa, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania.

42. As a result of advocacy by the human rights section of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan, the Government has been strengthening coordination mechanisms to address the issue of violence against women and developing an online database to track cases of violence against women, as well as awareness-raising programmes.[9] The human rights section of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau (UNIOGBIS) contributed to the finalization in December 2013 of a national plan to end gender-based violence for 2014-2017 based on a broad-based dialogue with civil society. Cooperation between the human rights section of UNIOGBIS and the specialized parliamentary committee on women and children also resulted in the adoption of a law against domestic violence in January 2014. UNIOGBIS human rights officers have since been working with communities and the police to promote the implementation of the law.

4. Promoting and protecting the rights of persons with disabilities

43. OHCHR, with the European Expert Group on the Transition from Institutional to Community-based Care, continued to contribute to a human rights-based approach in European Union policies aimed at improving services for persons with disabilities and children outside parental care. In this context, it held seminars in 11 States members of the European Union on how European Union structural funds could be used to support transition to community-based care. As a result, courts started declining to place persons with disabilities under guardianship.

44. OHCHR advocated for the inclusion of the rights of persons with disabilities in the post-2015 development agenda, with a focus on accessibility, inclusive education, work and employment, and the situation of women and girls with disabilities.

[9] See also A/HRC/25/41.

5. Discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity

45. Through its Free and Equal public information campaign, OHCHR continued to raise awareness of violence and discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people. Since its launch in July 2013, the Free and Equal campaign has reached an estimated global audience of more than 1 billion people online and through television, radio and the printed press. Campaign events have been held in North America, Latin America, Africa and Asia. OHCHR issued several statements expressing concern at human rights violations against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons, including the introduction of strengthened criminal penalties for consensual same-sex relationships and restrictions on freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly in several countries. Similar concerns were expressed in a joint statement issued in May 2014 by special procedures mandate holders and three regional human rights mechanisms.

6. Discrimination against persons with albinism

46. OHCHR published its first ever study on the situation of persons with albinism (A/HRC/24/57), expressing its grave concern at the severity of the human rights violations committed against persons with albinism in many countries, including the multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination that they face. OHCHR has also been providing support and guidance to civil society actors in their engagement with international and regional human rights mechanisms to fight discrimination and violence against persons with albinism.

7. Discrimination against older persons

47. The High Commissioner continued to advocate for the strengthening of the international regime for the protection of the human rights of older persons. In August 2013, OHCHR and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat supported the fourth session of the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing, which, inter alia, discussed the lack of a general prohibition of discrimination on the basis of old age. In April 2014, OHCHR organized the Social Forum, which was devoted to the human rights of older persons. Moreover, OHCHR has been supporting the Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons, further to the creation of the mandate in October 2013.

8. Discrimination against migrants

48. OHCHR has a long-standing commitment to the human rights of migrants that cuts across all thematic priorities. Alarmed at the growing trend of discrimination, marginalization, criminalization and intolerance vis-à-vis migrants in all regions, OHCHR, together with other United Nations and non-United Nations entities and partners, intensified its advocacy on this issue.

49. At the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, held in October 2013, participants called for a paradigm shift in the way in which people talk and act towards migrants, notably those in an irregular situation. On International Migrants Day, the International Labour Organization and OHCHR launched a campaign to encourage positive perceptions about migrants. In the context of discussions on the post-2015 development agenda, OHCHR advocated for a universally valid agenda that incorporates a focus on promoting and protecting the human rights of all marginalized groups, including through the empowerment

and inclusion of migrants regardless of their status or circumstance. OHCHR advocacy and advice led to the elaboration and adoption of national migration policies that are compliant with international human rights.

C. Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

50. With the ultimate aim of strengthening the protection of human rights, OHCHR continued its work to combat impunity and promote accountability and the rule of law. OHCHR supported legislative and institutional reforms, building the capacity of judicial and law enforcement personnel to function in compliance with international norms and standards and facilitating the protection of victims and their access to remedies.

51. OHCHR also continued to support human rights education and training at the national level as an effective means to strengthen accountability and human rights culture. In the context of the World Programme for Human Rights Education, OHCHR and the Irish Human Rights Commission co-organized an international conference on human rights training in Dublin in December 2013, in which civil servants shared good practices and established partnerships.

1. Strengthening the rule of law

52. OHCHR conducted activities and developed tools to promote women's access to justice, particularly regarding gender-based violence. OHCHR and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) developed a regional model protocol for the investigation of femicide in Latin America. In June 2014, OHCHR released a report entitled "Eliminating judicial stereotyping: equal access to justice for women in gender-based violence cases". In Guatemala, OHCHR brought the results of the study to the attention of judicial schools.

53. OHCHR continued to reiterate its concerns over allegations of serious violations of human rights in the context of counter-terrorism, including those relating to the enactment and implementation of broadly formulated national counter-terrorism legislation and the abusive use of counter-terrorism legislation by authorities to curb otherwise legitimate activity (see also para. 81 below). OHCHR led the implementation of the projects of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force Working Group on Protecting Human Rights While Countering Terrorism on developing basic human rights reference guides and human rights-compliant law enforcement capacity-building.

54. In Kyrgyzstan, OHCHR advice led to positive changes to the draft Criminal Procedure Code, including judicial control over pretrial investigation, the empowerment of defence lawyers and defendants, and the removal of provisions inconsistent with those of the Constitution on the right to defence, arrests and pretrial detention.

55. Interventions by the human rights section of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) contributed to the transfer of individuals from detention facilities under the control of the military, or from inappropriate facilities or illegal detention centres, to institutions under the authority of the Ministry of

Justice. UNSMIL advocacy also led to improved procedures for the handover of individuals from armed brigades to government-run facilities, thereby enhancing the safety of detainees. Moreover, UNSMIL work enabled a number of detainees to be granted access to lawyers and family visits.[10]

56. In August 2013, OHCHR and other United Nations entities initiated a technical assistance project with the School for Judges and the School for Prosecutors in the Plurinational State of Bolivia. OHCHR provided human rights training for senior officers of the Uganda Police Force, the Uganda People's Defence Forces and the Uganda Prisons Service. OHCHR also supported the Uganda police in reviewing its standing orders so as to apply human rights norms to law enforcement functions. It observed that the police had become more responsive to allegations of human rights violations and exhibited improved behaviour in the context of demonstrations. In November 2013, OHCHR organized a training workshop on traditional justice systems and human rights for its field presences in Africa.

2. Transitional justice

57. OHCHR provided legal commentaries on legislation regarding truth-seeking processes in several countries, including Burundi, Mali and Nepal. In Nepal, victims' groups successfully challenged the transitional justice law in the Supreme Court, using an OHCHR technical note commenting on the law. In Honduras, the Office supports the implementation of the recommendations contained in the report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. In Guinea-Bissau, OHCHR and other stakeholders developed a project for the implementation of the recommendations of the National Conference on Impunity, Justice and Human Rights, held in July 2013, in particular regarding investigations into past gross human rights violations and the ratification of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. In December 2013, OHCHR formalized a technical assistance agreement with the Office of the Attorney General of Colombia for the implementation of an accountability project to verify and produce evidence-based analysis of extrajudicial executions perpetrated by the armed forces. It aims to provide technical assistance to advance investigations into extrajudicial executions while supporting the litigation strategies of over 15 attorneys representing victims from across the country.[11]

58. OHCHR continued to strengthen national capacities to assist and protect victims and witnesses of international crimes and gross violations of human rights. In December 2013, OHCHR and the Uganda Law Reform Commission, in partnership with international courts and tribunals based in The Hague, organized a workshop on technical and practical issues relating to the establishment of a national witness protection programme in Uganda. This led to the finalization of the country's bill on witness protection.

59. In November 2013, OHCHR and the Special Rapporteur on the promotion of truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence organized a regional consultation on transitional justice in Africa in Kampala. In January 2014, OHCHR published a special issue entitled *Transitional Justice and Economic, Social and*

[10] See also A/HRC/25/42 and the report of UNSMIL and OHCHR on torture and deaths in detention in Libya, available from www.ohchr.org/Documents/Countries/LY/TortureDeathsDetentionLibya.pdf.

[11] See also A/HRC/25/19/Add.3.

Cultural Rights, which analyses experiences, potential and challenges in addressing such rights in the context of transitional justice processes.

60. In Togo, OHCHR has advised the mechanism established to implement the recommendations of the country's Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commission, including a reparations and reconciliation programme. In Tunisia, OHCHR provided advice during the drafting of the law on transitional justice, which was adopted in December 2013, and began supporting the Truth and Dignity Commission, inaugurated in June 2014. In Libya, UNSMIL worked with authorities to develop a new law on transitional justice containing more effective human rights protections. The law also provides for a truth and reconciliation commission and establishes a framework for reparations.

3. Abolition of the death penalty

61. OHCHR continued to advocate for the abolition of the death penalty. In October 2013, in cooperation with the Ministry of Justice of Thailand, it organized a regional expert meeting with the aim of abolishing the death penalty in South-East Asia. OHCHR, in cooperation with the Permanent Missions of Chile, Italy and the Philippines to the United Nations, organized three events in New York on the theme "Moving away from the death penalty", focusing on deterrence and public opinion (January 2014); discriminatory practices in the use of the death penalty (April 2014); and best practices and challenges in the implementation of a moratorium (July 2014). The panels brought together representatives of Member States, academia and civil society, as well as experts and victims, to discuss the various aspects that remain obstacles to the abolition of the death penalty and best practices to overcome those challenges. Furthermore, OHCHR advised States, including Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Japan, Maldives, Nigeria, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, South Sudan, the United Arab Emirates, the United States of America, Viet Nam and the State of Palestine, on the implementation of international standards for the protection of the rights of individuals facing the death penalty and on establishing death penalty moratoriums.

62. OHCHR interventions had tangible impacts, such as the reintroduction of a death penalty moratorium in Pakistan; a general suspension of executions in the United Arab Emirates; the presidential commutation of all death sentences to life imprisonment in Myanmar; the abolition of the death penalty for offences committed by persons under the age of 18 years in Bangladesh; and the commencement of an executive review of procedures pertaining to the death penalty in the United States. In addition, OHCHR advocacy contributed to the ratification of the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights by El Salvador, Gabon, Guinea-Bissau and Poland.

63. At the same time, despite the global trend and OHCHR direct advocacy with the States concerned, during the reporting period some States abandoned their long-term de facto moratoriums.

D. Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere

64. Over the past year, OHCHR continued its work to integrate human rights in development and the economic sphere. Uprisings throughout the world, social

conflict, the global financial crisis, growing economic inequality, poverty and deprivation have clearly underscored the importance of this work and the interdependence of human rights, development and peace. These developments have confirmed that a lack of accountability in the economic sphere, inequalities and exclusion undermine the realization of the full range of human rights for millions across the globe. As a result, OHCHR has increased its efforts to promote and protect human rights in the context of development, including in the formulation of the post-2015 development agenda. OHCHR has also actively promoted human rights accountability for businesses, including through its efforts to raise awareness and promote the implementation of the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. OHCHR has continued its capacity-building and advocacy regarding economic and social rights and has continued to mainstream those rights throughout the United Nations system and at the country level.

1. Human rights and development

65. OHCHR conducted extensive research and advocacy to promote the integration of human rights in the post-2015 development agenda. It issued publications on accountability in the context of the post-2015 development agenda, on the right to development and on human rights indicators. It continued to advocate for the integration of human rights criteria in post-2015 goals, targets and indicators, including through its participation in the United Nations System Task Team on the Post-2015 United Nations Development Agenda. Prior to the sixth session of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals, OHCHR led the drafting of the technical support team's issues brief and accompanying statistical note on human rights, including the right to development.

66. OHCHR participation in the United Nations coordination mechanism on food and nutrition and the Committee on World Food Security resulted in wide recognition of the importance of the right to food as a framework for achieving world food and nutrition security in the post-2015 development agenda. OHCHR advocacy was reflected in proposals for global goals, including on water, food, health, housing, education, addressing inequalities, governance, and accountability.

67. The OHCHR report entitled "Human rights indicators: a guide to measurement and implementation" has been used by more than 20 countries in connection with national development policies and follow-up to recommendations from international human rights mechanisms. OHCHR supported the development of human rights indicators in Albania, Kazakhstan, Morocco, Serbia and Uzbekistan. In collaboration with United Nations partners and civil society, it developed a set of human rights indicators relevant to migrants and their families, with an initial focus on the right to health, education and decent work.

68. In Ecuador, OHCHR supported the National Secretariat for Planning and Development in producing its atlas of inequalities, which served as a baseline for the country's national strategy for poverty eradication and informed its national development plan for 2014-2017. The atlas provides an innovative database of persistent gaps in the enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights and includes disaggregated information (including by ethnicity, sex, gender, age and region). It creates new social indicators to measure poverty from a multidimensional perspective. In February 2014, the Government of the State of Palestine adopted the Palestinian National Development Plan, which, based on OHCHR advice, foresees

the integration of human rights in economic and social development, infrastructure and governance.

69. In October 2013, OHCHR contributed to ensuring that the human rights of migrants are featured prominently in the Declaration of the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, adopted by the General Assembly, and in the eight-point agenda for action outlined by the Secretary-General. OHCHR also provided substantive technical assistance on human rights to a number of discussions at the Global Forum on Migration and Development.

2. Economic and social rights

70. The High Commissioner's annual report to the Economic and Social Council for 2014 focuses on land and human rights issues, mapping the connections between access to land and land management and human rights norms and principles. In addition, OHCHR, in cooperation with UN-Women, issued a publication on effective practices in realizing women's rights to land and other productive resources.

71. Within the framework of two cooperation agreements between OHCHR, the Colombian Land Restitution Unit and the Victims' Attention and Comprehensive Reparation Unit, OHCHR has been submitting periodic reports, including recommendations, on the implementation of relevant laws based on fact-finding field missions in prioritized communities. In Yemen, OHCHR and the United Nations Development Programme provided support to the Land and Dismissals Commissions through the creation of a database that allows the registration of claims, the analysis of cases and the protection of documentation. They also assisted the Southern Land Commission in designing a plan to handle mass claims.[12]

72. OHCHR has devoted considerable efforts to strengthen the capacity of field presences and relevant partners to work on issues concerning economic, social and cultural rights, generally and in the context of specific challenges. In 2013 and 2014, missions were conducted to: Paraguay, to support the integration of a human rights perspective in poverty reduction strategies; the State of Palestine, to support the capacity of OHCHR and the country's national human rights institution on economic, social and cultural rights; Madagascar, to promote the integration of economic, social and cultural rights in the process of the formulation of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework; Ecuador, to build the capacity of its national human rights institution to monitor economic, social and cultural rights; Montenegro, to enhance the capacity of the United Nations country team and non-governmental organizations to provide relevant input to the review of the State's periodic report before the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; and Kyrgyzstan, to build the capacity of non-governmental organizations, OHCHR and the United Nations country team to work on economic, social and cultural rights.

73. OHCHR has also worked to raise awareness of the negative human rights impact of the financial crisis and austerity measures. A study on austerity measures and economic, social and cultural rights highlighted how austerity measures endanger the protection of economic, social and cultural rights, including with regard to the principles of non-retrogression, progressive realization,

[12] See also A/HRC/27/44.

non-discrimination and minimum core obligations. The report was instrumental in fostering collaboration with the International Labour Organization to address social protection and related issues.

74. OHCHR remained an active participant in the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, including by collaborating on the development of a publication on eviction impact assessments. In Kyrgyzstan, Turkey and the State of Palestine, OHCHR assisted civil society and grass-roots organizations working on the right to adequate housing.

75. In 2014, OHCHR issued a publication on the economic, social and cultural rights of migrants in an irregular situation, identifying barriers that prevent the enjoyment of rights and highlighting good practices. OHCHR, the World Health Organization and the International Organization for Migration launched a joint report on the multifaceted health and human rights challenges faced by migrants.

3. Business and human rights

76. OHCHR advocated for the effective implementation by business enterprises of their human rights responsibilities, as set out in the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, and conducted capacity-building involving States and business enterprises. It launched a multi-stakeholder consultative process aimed at strengthening accountability and effective remedies in cases of corporate involvement in gross human rights abuses.

77. In Bujumbura in November 2013, the Subregional Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa, the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region, the Economic Community of Central African States, the Citizens Governance Initiatives and the United Nations Office in Burundi co-organized a workshop on human rights, the prevention of conflicts and the exploitation of natural resources in Central Africa. The event resulted in the adoption of national follow-up action plans. In Guatemala, OHCHR has been working on the rights of rural workers and supporting the Ministry of Labour, including through the elaboration of a manual for labour inspectors to evaluate respect for workers' rights in agro-industries. By late 2013, the manual had been piloted by some local inspectorates.

E. Widening the democratic space

78. Trends to unduly restrict public liberties and curtail the role of civil society actors have been identified in all regions, including in the context of electoral processes or in reaction to protests. In many cases, human rights defenders and journalists are the primary targets of restrictions, threats and attacks by authorities and, increasingly, by non-State actors.

79. In December 2013, pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 22/10, OHCHR organized an expert seminar on effective measures and best practices to ensure the promotion and protection of human rights in the context of peaceful protests. The Special Rapporteurs on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association and on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions were invited to share their views and experiences with the participants. In January 2014, OHCHR issued a report on the outcome of the seminar. OHCHR monitored demonstrations in

many countries where it has a presence and provided advice to the authorities and civil society to ensure peaceful protests. In Cambodia, it monitored unprecedented demonstrations and public protests in the wake of the elections of June 2013, as well as labour strikes.[13] In Thailand, OHCHR monitored demonstrations in the lead-up to the elections.

80. Pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 21/12, OHCHR prepared a compilation of good practices in the protection of journalists, the prevention of attacks against them and the fight against impunity for such attacks (A/HRC/24/23). The Council considered the report at a panel organized by OHCHR in June 2014. This work informed General Assembly resolution 68/163 on the safety of journalists and the issue of impunity, in which the Assembly, inter alia, proclaimed 2 November as the International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists. OHCHR also continued its support to the United Nations Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity, coordinated by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

81. OHCHR worked on issues relating to surveillance and the right to privacy in the digital age, as reflected in General Assembly resolution 68/167. OHCHR engaged the United Nations University in a research project on the application of international human rights law to national regimes overseeing governmental digital surveillance. Pursuant to that resolution, and after circulating a questionnaire to all stakeholders, OHCHR submitted its report on the right to privacy in the digital age (A/HRC/27/37) to the Human Rights Council and the Assembly.

F. Early warning and protection of human rights in situations of conflict, violence and insecurity

1. Early warning

82. OHCHR implements all of the human rights-related policies of the Secretary-General and provides regular human rights support to the United Nations system, particularly in the context of crises, in addition to increasing its support, guidance and training to resident coordinators and United Nations country teams. Furthermore, OHCHR is engaged in the Inter-Agency Standing Committee Task Team on Preparedness and Resilience, particularly the regular early warning and early action reports.

83. OHCHR continued to support international commissions of inquiry and fact-finding missions mandated by the Human Rights Council and the Security Council to investigate allegations of serious violations of human rights and humanitarian law. During the reporting period, the Office continued to provide support to the independent international commission of inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic, set up the commission of inquiry on the Central African Republic and began setting up commissions of inquiry on Eritrea and Gaza. It also provided support to the African Union commission of inquiry for South Sudan. In November 2013, OHCHR issued a publication aimed at practitioners, policymakers and advocates on methodology and guidance for international commissions of inquiry and fact-finding missions based on two decades of experience in this area.

[13] See also A/HRC/27/43.

2. Protection in the context of conflict, violence and insecurity

84. As most peace and security crises are linked to large-scale human rights violation, OHCHR continued its monitoring and reporting, including through reports and briefings to the General Assembly, the Security Council and the Human Rights Council. It is fundamental to ensure that Member States are alerted to a crisis and violations and provided with relevant and credible information for their deliberations. Over the past year, the High Commissioner and the Assistant Secretary-General have been invited, on an ad hoc basis, on 11 occasions to brief the Security Council on seven country situations.

85. During the period under review, OHCHR deployed 10 human rights teams on monitoring missions in the context of deteriorating human rights situations, notably in the Central African Republic and Ukraine;[14] in the aftermath of humanitarian emergencies, particularly in the Philippines; and to support resident coordinators, including in Myanmar and Nigeria.

86. The effective integration of human rights in United Nations peace missions remains a priority of the Office. OHCHR engaged with Member States to ensure that missions have the appropriate mandates and resources to deliver on the protection of human rights, including the protection of civilians. It also assisted missions in strengthening their human rights work, including in the Central African Republic and Mali. In the Central African Republic, OHCHR contributed towards shaping the transition of the special political mission to a peacekeeping operation and supported the integration of African Union peacekeepers into the new United Nations peace operation in the country, the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic, by delivering training on human rights. OHCHR also participated in the reconfiguration of the missions in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and South Sudan and in the planning for the drawdown and closure of the missions in Burundi and Sierra Leone.

87. OHCHR provided regular input to briefings of the expert group on the protection of civilians and expertise to the United Nations missions in the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and South Sudan in the development or revision of their protection of civilians strategies and operations. It also supported the development of human rights operational guidance for uniformed peacekeepers in the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti.

88. OHCHR and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations of the Secretariat published a report on lessons learned on the joint protection mechanisms and other measures established by the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo to protect civilians. In December 2013, OHCHR held a workshop with human rights and senior military peacekeeping mission personnel aimed at gathering good practices in the area of protection of civilians. The Office also supported the development of mission human rights operational guidance for police and military peacekeeping personnel and provided advice on the design of protection of civilians strategies, including in the Central African Republic and South Sudan. Furthermore, OHCHR supported training on the protection of civilians provided by the Department to military trainers from

[14] See the OHCHR reports on the human rights situation in Ukraine dated 15 April, 15 May, 15 June and 15 July 2014, available from www.ohchr.org/EN/countries/ENACARegion/Pages/UAIndex.aspx.

troop-contributing countries, delivered human rights training to the Standing Police Capacity and advised the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre on the design of a human rights course for peacekeeping personnel.

89. OHCHR also continued to work with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, the Department of Political Affairs of the Secretariat, the United Nations Development Programme and the Office of the Special Representatives of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict and for Children and Armed Conflict with a view to streamlining the capacity of the United Nations regarding the broader protection of human rights.

90. During the reporting period, OHCHR trained over 70 human rights officers in United Nations peace missions to monitor, investigate and report on conflict-related sexual violence. OHCHR also participated in the development and delivery of the first workshop for Women Protection Advisers, held in January 2014 in Entebbe, Uganda. Moreover, OHCHR contributed with UN-Women to a guidance note of the Secretary-General on reparations for conflict-related sexual violence, which was launched at the Global Summit to End Sexual Violence in Conflict, held in London in June 2014. As a co-lead entity of the Team of Experts on the Rule of Law and Sexual Violence in Conflict, OHCHR continued to support national authorities in fighting impunity for conflict-related sexual violence, including in Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Guinea, Liberia, Somalia and South Sudan.

91. Two years after its adoption, the human rights due diligence policy on United Nations support to non-United Nations security forces has proved its value as a tool to assist principled and effective engagement in situations where risks of serious human rights violations by regional and national security forces with which the United Nations is partnering are high. The policy has garnered strong support from Member States and civil society actors and has been mentioned frequently by the Security Council. OHCHR supports the implementation of the policy by developing additional guidelines and advising United Nations peace missions, United Nations country teams and individual United Nations entities on the development of procedures and risk assessments.

3. Human rights in the context of humanitarian action

92. In December 2013, the Inter-Agency Standing Committee principals adopted protection as one of their priorities and issued a statement of commitment on the centrality of protection in humanitarian action. Furthermore, the Standing Committee endorsed a policy on protection with a view to, inter alia, preventing and responding to violations of international human rights and humanitarian law. These developments are the main outcomes of discussions that OHCHR initiated with the Standing Committee on the protection of human rights in humanitarian crises, in the light of the report of the Internal Review Panel on United Nations Action in Sri Lanka and the Rights up Front Action Plan. Since then, OHCHR engagement with the Standing Committee has focused on the operationalization of protection.

93. In this context, and with a view to strengthening humanitarian leadership, OHCHR participated in the Standing Committee's performance review of all humanitarian coordinators to ensure that their critical role in promoting and protecting human rights is a central benchmark in the assessment of their performance. In addition, OHCHR contributed to designing the resident

coordinators' induction programme for 2014, which integrates human rights protection as one of their key functions as development actors.

94. OHCHR sustained its engagement as a major protection actor, providing guidance and support to humanitarian coordinators, humanitarian country teams and protection clusters in the Central African Republic, Iraq, Myanmar, South Sudan, Ukraine and Yemen, and through rapid response deployments, such as in the Philippines. As part of its commitments to field engagement in humanitarian emergencies, OHCHR committed, for the second year, 21 level 3 capable staff to the inter-agency rapid response mechanism.

Chapter III
Conclusions

95. The period under review was once again rich in achievement and rife with challenges for OHCHR. It was marked by landmark developments which should boost the relevance and impact of the Office and the United Nations human rights mechanisms and, it is hoped, will foster the effective realization of human rights as one of the three pillars of the United Nations.

96. Thanks to the dedication of its staff in the field and at headquarters, during the current High Commissioner's term OHCHR has affirmed both the normative and the operational nature of its mandate, as well as the centrality of human rights in the context of peace, security and development. OHCHR has also been steadily strengthening its responsiveness to various types of situations and requests. Despite persistent financial constraints, OHCHR has consistently responded to an expanding range of requests, including increasing mandates by the Security Council and the Human Rights Council; deployments to conduct monitoring and reporting in the context of conflict and political, economic and social crises, both globally and nationally; more robust support to United Nations peace missions and country teams; and requests for technical cooperation, including in relation to the universal periodic review.

97. Twenty years after the establishment of the mandate of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, it is the collective duty of the international community to uphold gains made in the promotion and protection of all human rights for all and to mobilize to effectively address chronic, as well as emerging, challenges hindering further progress, globally and at the country level.

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